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# Ricky's father lied, trial shows

## Cross-examination targets memory, credibility

**BY JACK KRESNAK**  
FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER

*October 13, 2006*

LANSING -- It's not every day that a witness testifying in a murder case is asked to phone a pizza parlor from the stand.

It happened Thursday as admitted child killer Tim Holland testified at the trial of his wife, Lisa, and as her attorney pounded away at his credibility.

During cross-examination, defense attorney Andrew Abood handed Holland a cell phone and asked him to call a number taken from the Hollands' home phone records. The call was made at 5:19 p.m. July 1, 2005, the day the couple's 7-year-old adopted son Ricky died.

According to Tim Holland's testimony Wednesday, the family dined at home that evening on takeout from Kentucky Fried Chicken. In that wrenching testimony, Holland told how he tried unsuccessfully to get the nearly comatose Ricky to eat chicken and mashed potatoes and later that evening found the boy dead in his bed.

On Thursday, as directed by Abood, Holland took the cell phone, punched in the number and held the phone to a microphone on the witness stand.

"Thank you for calling Hungry Howie's Pizza," a recorded voice answered.

Although Abood didn't press the point, the jury may have been left with the impression that Holland was lying about what happened that night.

If so, that was the point. Holland, 37, has admitted under oath to telling many lies since falsely reporting to police on July 2, 2005, that Ricky had run away from home.

Holland's truthfulness is a major focus of Lisa Holland's defense against charges of open murder and first-degree child abuse in Ricky's death. If convicted, she faces life in prison.

Tim Holland pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last month in exchange for testimony against his 33-year-old wife. He has not yet been sentenced.

The defense attacked his credibility on several points Thursday:

- His statement to police Jan. 27 that he saw his wife hit Ricky with a small hammer?



Tim Holland, left, and Lisa Holland attend a preliminary hearing March 10. He has admitted a role in killing his child. She is on trial. (AL GOLDIS/Associated Press)

A lie, Holland admitted.

He testified Wednesday that he came home from a four-day military intelligence training trip on June 24, 2005, and found Ricky with a gash in his head. Holland said his son remained in a zombie-like state for the next seven days, not drinking, eating or speaking.

On Thursday, Holland testified that he and his wife never talked about what caused the boy's death until December 2005, when she told him she had hit Ricky with a tack hammer.

- His statement that he escorted his other children past Ricky's body lying in a pool of blood in the hallway of their home?

A lie, he admitted.

On Wednesday, Holland said he cleaned up Ricky's bedroom after finding the boy dead. He said he wrapped Ricky in a sheet off the bed and placed the body in two garbage bags.

- His claim in January that his wife had taken Ricky's body out of the house?

A lie, he said.

Holland testified that he placed Ricky's body in the back of his pickup before dumping it in a swamp about 15 miles away.

- His statement to his adoptive mother, Arcie Holland, that he wanted to take Ricky over to her house the night of July 1, 2005, and that might have saved the boy's life?

Another lie, Tim Holland said.

Holland testified that he did not actively seek medical attention for the boy in the days before his death, even though he himself had seen a doctor about an injured ankle.

Under questioning by Abood, Holland also admitted that on Sept. 3, 2006, he told police that "Lisa was feeding off" the media attention the couple sparked by reporting that their son had run away and that he later told police that he didn't like lying to the media "because I'm an honest person."

Abood then played a 17-minute interview Holland gave to a Detroit-area radio station about two weeks after reporting that Ricky was missing, knowing full well that the child was dead.

Holland told the interviewer that the couple first thought Ricky would be found right away. But, as several days passed, "it started to sink in more and more, what do we do now? What more can my wife and I do to find him?"

Abood didn't question Holland directly about the reason for his lies, but he did ask Holland whether he had told police, "My love for Lisa is stronger than my love for my son." Holland said he had.

He also admitted telling police in January: "I thought the lie was getting out of hand, but I didn't know how to stop it."

Ingham County Circuit Judge Paula Manderfield halted Thursday's cross-examination shortly before 12:30 p.m. and adjourned the case until Tuesday morning, when Holland is expected to return as a witness.

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October 13, 2006

## Defense paints Ricky's dad as liar

Tim Holland can't keep his testimony straight in wife Lisa's murder trial, her attorneys claim.

**Karen Bouffard / The Detroit News**

**LANSING --** Did Tim Holland see his wife, Lisa, beat their son Ricky to death with a hammer on July 1, 2005? Or did she do it more than a week earlier, while Tim was away on a business trip?

Did Ricky die quickly in a single act of violence or slowly edge toward death from dehydration and medical neglect?

Tim Holland has told multiple stories to police and at court since he led detectives to the Ingham County swamp where he buried his adopted 7-year-old son, Ricky, on Jan. 27.

Those stories came back to haunt him during a tough cross-examination Thursday by defense attorneys for his wife, Lisa, whose murder and child abuse trial concluded a fifth week in Ingham County Circuit Court.

"He's never stated the truth," defense attorney Andrew Abood told the jury.

Abood led jurors through a maze of inconsistencies and all-out lies told by Tim Holland, beginning with the 911 call to report Ricky missing from the family's Williamston home on July 2, 2005, which resulted in a search involving more than 1,900 volunteers.

The defense continued with Tim Holland's dramatic public plea on a radio interview July 17, 2005, asking for help to find his son.

"I don't sleep anymore," Holland said during the 11-minute recording. "I just don't want anyone else to have to go through what my wife and I are going through right now."

Tim Holland pleaded guilty to second-degree murder, which has the possibility of parole, earlier this month in exchange for testimony against his wife. None of the 35 witnesses so far claims to have seen Lisa Holland kill the boy with a hammer. Earlier, Tim told police he witnessed the act. But Wednesday he claimed it occurred while he was gone.

One by one, Abood led Holland through multiple falsehoods. Abood even produced phone records casting doubt that the family even ate Kentucky Fried Chicken on the day of Ricky's death.

In chilling detail Wednesday, Holland claimed his wife wouldn't allow Ricky to eat his favorite meal of chicken and mashed potatoes until he ate coleslaw, which he hated. Holland claimed he propped up the barely conscious boy to the table, but his head fell on the plate.

But phone records show the family called Hungry Howie's Pizza that night, Abood said.

Holland also admitted simple fear prevented him seeking medical help for his son.

Holland claimed Wednesday that Lisa wouldn't let him take Ricky to the doctor.

He had the chance, Holland admitted Thursday. His wife left the children in his care for hours on June 29, 2005, while she went to the store. Still, he didn't phone a doctor or the police.

"I didn't want to go to jail," Holland said.

"I knew if I took my son to the hospital, I'd lose my family, I'd lose everything."

Lisa Holland's murder trial will continue before Judge Paula Manderfield on Tuesday, with more testimony from Tim Holland.

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Published October 13, 2006

## Ricky's father admits to lies

Lisa Holland's defense cites Tim's conflicting statements

By Kevin Grasha  
Lansing State Journal

A day after Tim Holland described in vivid detail watching his 7-year-old son, Ricky, slowly die during the last week of June 2005, he admitted lying to investigators several times about what happened.

On the stand Thursday during his wife's murder trial, Holland said he gave false statements because he feared losing his family. He said the lying got out of control, and he didn't know how to stop.

Holland recounted how he lied to detectives Jan. 27 when he told them his wife, Lisa Holland, pulled Ricky out of the boy's bedroom and struck him in the head with a hammer, leaving him in a pool of blood in the hallway.

Tim Holland has since changed his story, telling authorities last month he never saw a fatal injury occur on July 1, 2005.

"You never saw Lisa hit Ricky in the head with a hammer?" Lisa Holland's co-counsel Andrew Abood asked Thursday during his cross-examination.

"That is correct," Tim Holland said, later adding there was never a pool of blood.

Lisa Holland is charged with murder and child abuse in the July 2005 death

### Trial Recap

Week 1, Sept. 18-22:

In opening arguments, prosecutors say the case against Lisa Holland is about manipulation, deception and concealment. Defense attorneys counter the prosecution's key witness, Tim Holland, is not credible and his guilty plea was intended solely to protect himself.

A Jackson County social worker testifies that in February 2001, Ricky said Lisa Holland tied him up at night. The social worker filed a report with Child Protective Services, but the report was not substantiated.

Jackson school officials testify the Ricky they knew was not the same boy described and often disparaged by Lisa Holland.

Testimony also reveals Ricky was removed from elementary school by his parents after it was determined he did not qualify for the special education services.

Week 2, Sept. 25-29:

Investigators found tiny blood stains in several rooms of Tim and Lisa Holland's Williamston home, a state police forensic scientist testifies.

A new portrait of Lisa Holland emerges in court: A loving mother who frequently called her family physician with child-rearing questions. But testimony also revealed a doctor last saw Ricky on Sept. 20, 2002.

Lisa Holland's hairdresser testifies that as hundreds of people searched for Ricky in early July 2005, Holland told her "she just needed to go on with her life."

A Williamston neighbor who lived across the street from the Hollands describes an incident in May 2005 when he found Ricky in his kitchen. "They don't want me anymore," the neighbor testifies Ricky said.

Week 3, Oct. 2-5

A former Ingham County Jail inmate testifies Lisa Holland told her Ricky made her angry, so she threw a hammer at the boy's head. She then picked it up and hit Ricky again.

A nurse at Ricky's Jackson elementary school testifies she reported suspected abuse to Child Protective Services at least twice.

A second jail inmate testified Lisa Holland confessed to killing Ricky. But Holland's defense attorneys focus on how Tim Holland lied to investigators several times in the

of the Williamston couple's adopted son.

Tim Holland already has pleaded guilty to second-degree murder and is testifying against his wife. In the day and a half her husband has been on the stand, Lisa Holland has showed little emotion, mostly scribbling notes on a yellow legal pad.

### Inconsistencies

Lisa Holland's attorneys are focusing on Tim's conflicting statements - all of which focus the blame on their client. They have said he pleaded guilty to protect himself.

Tim Holland told a detective on Jan. 27 that Lisa took Ricky's body out of the house. But later in the same interview, he admitted he removed the boy's body from the house.

Tim Holland said he lied in a Feb. 7 jailhouse conversation with his adoptive mother, Arcie Holland, when he said Ricky's younger brother might have seen Lisa kill Ricky.

He also admitted keeping a document at work outlining his false story.

### Phone calls to mom

Abood questioned Tim Holland about two phone conversations with Arcie Holland: one the night Ricky died, after Tim had put the boy's body inside two garbage bags and placed the bags beside a living room couch; the other at 8:34 the next morning before he reported Ricky missing.

"I talk to my mother all the time," he told Abood.

He said he could not remember what they discussed in either phone call. Arcie Holland, who is his aunt, raised Tim since he was 7 years old, after his mother either shot herself or his father shot her, according to court testimony.

### Fried chicken

Abood also tried to cast doubt on Tim Holland's story about the night Ricky died.

On Wednesday, Tim Holland described how the family ate dinner from KFC. He said Lisa wouldn't let Ricky eat fried chicken legs and mashed potatoes - Ricky's favorite - and instead tried to feed him a plate of cole slaw.

From the stand Thursday, Tim Holland used a cell phone to dial a number that records show was called from the Hollands' home in the early evening of July 1, 2005.

A recorded voice answered: "Thanks for calling Hungry Howie's of Williamston."

case, including in a Jan. 27 statement to police during which he told authorities Lisa killed Ricky by striking him with a hammer.

A video-recorded interview of Lisa Holland talking with police is played for the jury, during which Lisa speculated her husband might tell police that she hit Ricky and that he then fell into a wall.

A weekend interview with Tim Holland yielded new information about how Ricky died, prosecutors said. As a result, a forensic pathologist is expected to update the boy's cause of death. The revelation led the judge to postpone the trial a day.

This week

Prosecutors show a 2005 TV interview with Lisa and Tim Holland where the couple begs for the safe return of Ricky, trying to show the couple's statements after the boy was reported missing were nothing but a ruse.

A forensic scientist testifies a T-shirt stained with Ricky's blood provides clues as to how he was killed. Most the blood — which probably came from a wound on the back or top of Ricky's head — either dripped from his hair or brushed against the shirt like a paintbrush, the scientist says.

Tim Holland describes the last week of Ricky's life, saying the boy was in a near-catatonic state, not eating or drinking and often incapable of supporting his small body. He says he found Ricky's lifeless body in his bed the night of July 1, 2005. He describes how he hid the body that night in a marshlike area near Dansville.

### On the Web:

- [Audio slide show: In his own words - Tim Holland one year ago](#)
- [VIDEO: Tim Holland testifies in court](#)

Hungry Howie's is a pizzeria.

Contact Kevin Grasha at 267-1347 or [kgrasha@lsj.com](mailto:kgrasha@lsj.com).

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Oct 12, 6:03 PM EDT

# Husband admits he lied after adopted son's death

By DAVID EGGERT  
Associated Press Writer

LANSING, Mich. (AP) -- A day after Tim Holland testified his wife killed their 7-year-old adopted son, the defense attacked his credibility Thursday by focusing on numerous lies he told the police and public.

Under cross-examination at Lisa Holland's murder trial, Tim Holland said he never saw her hit their son in the head with a hammer despite telling that to detectives in January.

He said he never saw Ricky lying in a pool of blood in their house and never wanted him to stay with relatives because of abuse he suffered at the hands of his wife - contrary to statements he previously made to police and during a recorded phone call with his mother.

Holland also said he lied when he told police his wife dumped Ricky's body in a marshy game area.

The 37-year-old testified Wednesday that he returned home from a quick errand July 1, 2005, to find Ricky dead in the boy's bed and his wife screaming she "didn't mean to do it." He said his wife told him in December that she had struck Ricky with a hammer.

Tim Holland, who now says he disposed of the body, told the defense Thursday that he never asked his 33-year-old wife what she had done to cause the boy's death. He also said he never asked his wife if she had taken Ricky to the doctor, even though he was seemingly comatose - not eating, drinking, talking or walking - the week before he died.

"I trusted her," Tim Holland said.

When asked why he didn't call 911 when he found Ricky not breathing and without a pulse, he said: "I didn't want to call the police and go to jail. ... I'd lose my family. I'd lose my children. ... I knew what was going on and did nothing to stop it."

Lisa Holland is charged with felony murder and child abuse. The couple adopted Ricky in 2003 after becoming his foster parents in 2000.

Ricky vanished from his Williamston home east of Lansing in July 2005. His adoptive parents said he had run away, sparking a nine-day search by 1,700 volunteers and hundreds of law enforcement officers.

Tim Holland led authorities to Ricky's body in January. He pleaded guilty to second-degree murder last month in exchange for testifying against his wife.

Prosecutors said they believe Ricky sustained a blow to the head by his adoptive mother that led to his death. Medical examiners classified the death as homicide by unspecified means and found fractures to Ricky's upper body and face.

Ingham County Jail inmates have testified Lisa Holland said she struck Ricky with a hammer.

But the defense says Tim Holland has a motive to deflect attention from himself. Defense attorney Andrew Abood suggested Thursday that Tim Holland changed his story to fit the prosecution's theory, even changing details from what he had said Sept. 5, when he pleaded guilty, to what he said later that month when he met again with prosecutors.

Lisa Holland's trial began last month and is scheduled to resume Tuesday. The defense may continue cross-examining Tim Holland, and the prosecution will follow with a redirect examination.

Felony murder is punishable by life without parole, while second-degree murder can bring a life sentence or "any term of years" and the chance for parole. To convict Lisa Holland of felony murder, prosecutors are trying to prove the death occurred while she committed first-degree child abuse.

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## Man gets prison for sex crime

POLICE BLOTTER

ATLAS TOWNSHIP

THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Friday, October 13, 2006

By Paul Janczewski

JOURNAL STAFF WRITER

An Atlas Township man was sentenced Thursday to a lengthy prison term after earlier pleading no contest to using a computer to commit a crime and one count each of first- and second-degree criminal sexual conduct involving minor female relatives.

Genesee Circuit Judge Geoffrey L. Neithercut sentenced Paul H. Christian, 40, to 18 years, 4 months to 41 years, 8 months in prison on first-degree criminal sexual conduct; 7 years, 11 months to 20 years for using a computer to commit a crime; and 7 years, 11 months to 15 years for third-degree criminal sexual conduct.

"You've done terrible things," Neithercut told Christian prior to sentencing.

Police and prosecutors said Christian took pictures of a young female relative as she slept on his couch, loaded nude pictures of another onto his computer and had been engaging in sex acts with that girl for three years, when she was 11 to 14 years old.

- Paul Janczewski

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### **Program to help abused children**

New program will help children who have been sexually abused

Friday, October 13, 2006

#### **From News staff reports**

LACASA has received a \$10,140 grant from the Community Foundation for Livingston County to expand its Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, or SANE program with a pediatric component.

The grant will allow LACASA registered nurses to become certified to conduct pediatric forensic sexual assault examinations on children under the age of 12 who have been sexually abused. LACASA will collect forensic evidence, provide medical support and offer a nurturing environment for children who have been sexually assaulted.

"No child is prepared to deal with sexual abuse," said Judith Shewach, executive director of LACASA.

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# Human Services, prosecutor's office should be on same path

Web-posted Oct 13, 2006

## EDITORIAL

It's no secret the Oakland County prosecutor's office and the Department of Human Services aren't quite kissing cousins, although they have the same goal - protecting children from abuse.

Probably a more accurate description would be that the relationship is similar to an estranged marriage. But it's a "marriage" with kids.

Both sides admit they disagree over philosophies.

Human Services wants to keep children with their natural parents, if at all possible, and place them in foster care if leaving them at home would subject the youngsters to abuse.

The prosecutor's office prefers to concentrate on taking "abused" children out of dangerous home situations.

Their differences of opinion are well-illustrated by their interpretations of a reported increase in children going into foster care homes.

While statewide the number of kids in foster care is decreasing, in Oakland County the number of children in foster care is up more than 80 percent since 2000, according to the state Department of Human Services. The Human Services figures show the foster care caseload in Oakland County was 862 in September 2000. This September, it was 1,554.

Human Services, of course, doesn't like the increase because it wants more children to stay with their natural parents. However, the prosecutor's office says the increase is a positive sign that its program to protect kids is working.

"We have spent the last 10 years training our teachers, other people who work in schools as well as doctors, nurses and social workers how to report child abuse and child sexual assault," said Deborah Carley, chief deputy prosecutor.

"And it's working. They are reporting more (child abuse cases). That's good because kids in horrible environments no longer have to stay there and suffer. They can be taken to foster care homes."

She points out that it's not the prosecutor's office that is "putting children in foster care."

In all those cases, Carley said, "the court has ordered those children into foster care. So (the court) has agreed with us - that the kids were at risk of serious harm."

However, Marianne Udow, director of the state Department of Human Services, said: "You've got to look at both sides of foster care. Simply pulling kids out of their home isn't the best answer. The law and our philosophy is to keep kids in their home, if possible."

Both sides have stated they are open to discussing their differences in philosophy. It's also easy to see both sides of the debate.

From the prosecutor's standpoint, officials want to err on the side of a child - take the youngster out of what appears to be a harmful situation.

On the other hand, no one wants to see families broken up if they can remain together.

The prosecutor's office and Human Services have the same goal - protecting children - but they are definitely on different roads in trying to achieve that.

Both sides need to take a detour and communicate more often - eventually resolving their differences so they both can get on the same road in working toward their mutual goal.



## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### Mother warns of domestic violence

Ardis Lelito, whose daughter was murdered, wants to help others

Friday, October 13, 2006

**BY CASEY HANS**

**News Staff Reporter**

Photos, memories and the love of grandchildren left behind continue to console Ardis Lelito more than four years after her daughter's death.

Helen Lelito Rich was shot and killed in August 2002 at her home in Fowlerville by her live-in boyfriend Elick "Turk" Verdulla, who is now in prison, convicted of second-degree murder in the case. She left behind four children, her mom and dad, Ardis and Tim, who live south of Fowlerville, a sister and other family and friends.

Lelito said she never liked Verdulla, but tried to respect her daughter's choice. She now has no doubt now that Helen was abused by Verdulla hand before she was killed. "She hid that (the abuse) very well," said Lelito. "If I had known, this wouldn't be a sad story."

Now, she wants others to watch for the warning signs so that other abuse and deaths can be avoided. She said her role now is to "speak up and speak out against domestic violence. If I can save one mother and child from the hands of a monster, then I have done a good thing."

The local domestic violence agency, LACASA, continues its efforts this month to bring awareness to the domestic violence problem both in Livingston County and beyond.

The 10th annual LACASA Vigil is scheduled for Tuesday at 7 p.m. on the Historic Courthouse lawn in downtown Howell. The vigil is staged to raise awareness of domestic violence and show support to those affected by it.

As Lelito has done in the past, another domestic violence survivor will speak at the event, as will members of the local law enforcement community who will put the problem in perspective for Livingston County. The Howell High School a cappella choir will sing two numbers as well as read the names of the 57 people killed in Michigan due to domestic violence.

"We are touched by this in our own county," said Candy Jones-Guerin, LACASA spokeswoman. "As our population grows, we're going to have an increase in these types of things here."

In the past three years, Jones-Guerin said, there have been seven deaths in the county that involved intimate partner relationships.

Of the 219 women counseled for domestic violence at LACASA in 2005 (the latest numbers available) 90 percent endured verbal abuse, 75 percent were pushed or shoved, 44 percent were punched or kicked, 27 percent reported sprains or broken bones, and 21 percent were burned. Sixty percent reported that financial support was withheld and 30 percent endured forced sexual contact.

Jones-Guerin said that in addition to direct counseling, 1,500 calls came into the agency's crisis line that were related to domestic violence problems.

Although many women seek shelter at the LACASA facility in Howell, often it is more dangerous for women to leave their relationships, so Jones-Guerin said the agency counsels people to be safe in each individual situation. She said most of the (domestic violence) killings in the county have been after women left.

"Many times, the most dangerous time is when they leave," she said. "It's that final threat that 'if you leave

me I will kill you."

Lelito urges those in a domestic violence situation - or their loved ones - to get help from someone they trust or to go to an agency such as LACASA where there are people trained to help.

"All I can say to women is you don't have to live this life. There is hope out there. There is help," she said. "But you can't keep going back. They've got to know they can be successful in life and move on for the sake of their children.

"Save your children. Don't go through the hell that I've been through."

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.com or at 810-844-2005.

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## THE ANN ARBOR NEWS

### LACASA Vigil

Friday, October 13, 2006

- What: The 10th annual candlelight vigil will honor victims and families touched by domestic violence and to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month, which is recognized each October.
- When: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 17.
- Where: The Livingston County Historic Courthouse lawn, downtown Howell.
- Who: A survivor of domestic violence and various law enforcement officials will speak. The Howell High School a cappella choir will perform and read the names of all Michigan victims of domestic violence over the past year.
- Details of event: Visit [www.lacasa1.org](http://www.lacasa1.org) or call 517-548-1350.
- Getting help: If you have a domestic violence emergency, call 911. For domestic violence counseling or help, call the LACASA hotline at 866-522-2725.

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## Boarder found guilty in murder case

Friday, October 13, 2006

By John Agar

The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- Almost as soon as Silvia Sanchez-Parada was found dead in her home, the suspect, Edwin Lario-Munoz, blamed her husband.

The husband, Leoncio Garcia-Lopez, said no one but Lario-Munoz was home with her when she was strangled.

"In the beginning, it could've been either one of them," Grand Rapids police Detective Gregory Griffin recalled Thursday.

But after repeated interviews with both men, he said, "it was apparent that Leoncio's story was a lot more credible."

Jurors agreed. They found Lario-Munoz, 20, guilty of second-degree murder in the Oct. 14, 2005, killing at 848 Baxter St. SE, where he rented a room in the couple's rental home. He also was found guilty of causing the death of her unborn baby, as well as attempted murder and armed robbery.

Lario-Munoz faces up to life in prison when sentenced Nov. 13 by Kent County Circuit Judge Dennis Kolenda.

Garcia-Lopez was the victim's only family member to attend the two-week trial. Their families are in Mexico, where the victim and her unborn baby are buried. The couple were in the country illegally. He wanted to return home -- he missed funeral services -- but stayed to testify at trial.

He was concerned he would not be able to return if he left, a prosecutor said.

While the courtroom gallery was mostly empty, the verdict meant a lot to the victim's family in Mexico, Assistant Prosecutor Jay Stone said.

He asked jurors to set aside immigration issues. This was about a young, pregnant mother of another child, who was 9 months old, brutally strangled in her home, Stone said.

"It's a real tragic case. I basically felt for (Garcia-Lopez) from the very beginning. I'm very happy with the jury's verdict -- justice was done."

Defense attorney Alida Bryant declined to comment afterward, but she told jurors the husband was the killer. His DNA was found underneath her fingernails, suggesting that she fought him as he strangled her with his hands, and on her neck, she told jurors.

"The DNA told us who," she said. "Seldom do I get a case where DNA is ... downplayed (by prosecutors), not valued."

The prosecutor argued it would not be unusual for a spouse's DNA to turn up on the other spouse.

Stone said witnesses established a timeline showing only Lario-Munoz was home with the victim.

Lario-Munoz, a Honduran native who once testified before a U.S. Senate subcommittee about orphaned immigrant children and made the cover of Parade magazine, is in the country legally.

He left the courtroom Thursday in chains.

**Send e-mail to the author: [jagar@grpress.com](mailto:jagar@grpress.com)**

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# ClickOnDetroit.com

## Day-Care Van Ban May Cost Parents Money

POSTED: 11:17 am EDT October 12, 2006

UPDATED: 11:32 am EDT October 12, 2006

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** -- A statewide ban on vans used by day cares to transport children is about to hit Tennessee families in the wallet.

"I understand it's frustrating for day cares having to spend the money for the buses, but it's also frustrating for the parents because it's also raising our rates," said parent Amanda Warr.

Like other parents, Warr isn't very happy about the rate increase at Clarksville's Kiddie College, but in order for her 7-year old daughter Lauren to continue receiving after-school care, she knows it's necessary.

All of the facility's 15 passenger vans have to be replaced with buses by Jan. 1.

The scenario is similar all across the state, with day cares raising rates to pay for the new buses and others canceling after-care programs completely, like Bellevue's Active Learning Center, which stopped transporting children two weeks ago and sold its vans.

"We're not doing this to punish the provider, we're doing this to protect the children," said Michelle Mowery-Johnson with the Department of Human Services.

The banning of day-care vans came after a 2002 crash in Memphis involving a day-care van.

The state believes the vans are subject to overturn and feels the buses are safer.

Almost 1,000 agencies across the state will be affected by the ban and while many are choosing to get out of the business of transporting children altogether, others have to figure out how to foot the bill.

At Stephanie Stuard's Kiddie College, she's purchased two buses but said she feels that money could have better benefitted the children in other ways.

Stuard said she felt like the new vans weren't much safer because the old vans had seat belts as well.

Tennessee is the first state to implement the ban on old buses.

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## Muskegon Chronicle

### Care worker in trouble for leaving home residents alone

Friday, October 13, 2006

By Lisa Medendorp

CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Four adult residents of an area group home for people with disabilities were left unattended in a van for at least two hours Monday evening while the driver went into a downtown apartment building, according to Muskegon police.

It turned out the driver, a now-former employee of a Lutheran Social Services of Michigan group home, had also been driving while her license was suspended.

Detective Sgt. Monica Shirey said police investigated the circumstances surrounding the incident and sought criminal charges against the driver, including one for leaving the people alone in the van. The disabled adults did not suffer any injuries.

As it turns out, the Muskegon County Prosecutor's Office could not charge the driver with any offense involving abuse of vulnerable adults because the actions did not fit the legal definition of the crime.

Elaina Burnett, 24, of 1328 Ducey, was charged on a warrant with giving false information to police and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended operator's license, second offense, according to Chief Assistant Prosecutor Brett Gardner.

She was arraigned Tuesday before 60th District Judge Michael J. Nolan and posted bond. The traffic offense is a one-year misdemeanor and the other offense carries a 90-day jail term.

"Her conduct was appalling," Gardner said.

The investigation revealed after all the disabled adults were examined, "that no harm resulted from the conduct of the employee, and as a result, no charges would be issued," he said.

Burnett "was terminated" following the incident, said Barbara Lewis, director of communications for the Detroit-based Lutheran Social Services of Michigan.

"All the residents are fine," Lewis said this morning. "No one was injured or in any other way harmed."

Burnett had been with the agency for three years and worked as a direct care worker, Lewis said.

"Our main concern is for the residents," she said, adding that "thorough background checks" are done before employees are hired and that driver's licenses are checked yearly. "The last time we checked, she had a valid license," Lewis said.

Gardner said Burnett had numerous traffic offenses on her record and her license "was suspended off and on almost continuously from 2001."

Muskegon police were called to the Amazon Building, 550 W. Western, Monday at 7:30 p.m. to "check the well-being of a van containing special needs passengers," Shirey said.

Inside were two men, ages 53 and 55, and two women, 55 and 61. "They were unable to communicate with the officer very well," Shirey said. They were residents of "Hansen Home" in Laketon Township.

The officer ran the van's license plate, which came back to Lutheran Social Services of Michigan, Shirey said. Inside the van was a purse and wallet that belonged to the driver.

"While the officer is checking on the computer for the status of that person, he hears a female yelling from a second-story window that the van was hers and she'd be down shortly," Shirey said, adding that the woman then gave the officer a false name.

Someone from the social services agency was contacted by police and the residents were driven back to the group home, Shirey said. Lewis said the van's occupants were wearing coats.

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[Print Page](#)

Child support debtors may lose hunting licenses

By ART BUKOWSKI Argus-Press Staff Writer

*Thursday, October 12, 2006 10:29 AM EDT*

CORUNNA - Refusing to pay child support payments? Don't bother dusting off the deer rifle.

People who owe more than six months of child support payments are receiving notices threatening the suspension of their hunting, fishing or other recreational licenses, according to Shiawassee County Friend of the Court Susan Thorman.

Thorman said her office is in the third year of sending such notices and sends out between 500 to 1,000 per year, usually around the time hunting season opens.

Although hunting and fishing are just recreational activities, Thorman said the notices are among the most effective tools her office uses for collecting payments.

"We find that this program has a more positive response," she said, explaining that her office can also seek the suspension of driver's licenses, report non-payers to credit reporting agencies and take other measures. "It appears our population seems to be more concerned with their hunting license than with their credit report."

Thorman said about half of Michigan's counties make use of the threat of suspended recreational licenses, which is authorized by state law. Ingham, Lapeer and other area counties also make use of the program.

Hunting is one of the largest outdoor industries in the state, with thousands of participants spending millions of dollars on the sport. Thorman said her office is attempting to make sure money is directed to the right place.

"There's a lot of folks out there playing when they should be paying," she said.

Thorman said people who have received the notices are not required to pay all of the money they owe at once. Upon receiving the notice, they can either pay all of the money they owe or set up a payment plan with Friend of the Court.

People can also challenge the amount they owe if they believe it to be incorrect. Thorman said suspension orders will be sent to the Department of Natural Resources if Friend of the Court receives no response to the notice.

Robert Schoch, a hunter and owner of Schoch's New & Used Guns near Morrice, had mixed reactions to the plan.

"There's pros and cons," he said. "On one hand, if you can afford a hunting license, you should be able to pay your child support payments."

Schoch said many hunters, however, use hunting as their main method of putting food on the table for their families, meaning taking away hunting privileges might have a negative affect.

# ClickOnDetroit.com

## Low-Income Workers Get Help Obtaining Cars

### *Company Helps People Obtain Loans,*

POSTED: 10:43 am EDT October 12, 2006

**MILWAUKEE** -- Emma "Matty" Yturralde was the exact opposite of a bank's dream borrower: A newly divorced single mom with a \$13-an-hour job. Her finances were so tight, she had a tenant sleeping in her living room.

She had a car, but it was in the shop almost as often as it was on the road. The bus ride to her job at Kmart took an hour and a half. Too proud to ask for a ride home, Yturralde, now 49, said she would sometimes wait outside the store to see if a co-worker offered one.

Her life changed in 2003 with a \$2,000 grant for a car and a \$4,000 auto loan at 4 percent interest through a nonprofit program called Ways to Work, which enabled her to buy a 2001 Daewoo. The store where she worked closed a few months later, but she was able to drive to a new job at a store farther away.

"If I didn't get the loan at just that time, I don't know what would have happened to me," she said. "Maybe I would have lost my job, maybe I would have gone on welfare or worse."

Advocates say Ways to Work, which has underwritten \$36 million in loans to 24,000 families since it began as a small program in Minnesota in 1984, is part of a new model for social service programs, one that delivers human services aimed at economic self-sufficiency. Borrowers in the program, which is in place at about 50 human services organizations in 25 states, are low-wage workers who either have poor credit or no credit. The program is targeted at getting them not just a car, but also a decent credit score and a bank account.

The nonprofit, which has grown swiftly and hopes to quadruple the number of loans it makes over the next five to six years, has a repayment rate of 90 percent. The program grew nationally with early funding from The McKnight Foundation and loan capital from Bank of America Corp.

Most of the loans are two-year loans for up to \$4,000, with interest rates capped at 8 percent and monthly payments capped at \$182.

Without loans through the program, its clients could pay 24 to 28 percent interest elsewhere, said Jeff Faulkner, president of Ways to Work.

"We commonly refinance loans where the APR (annual percentage rate), including fees, is 35 to 50 percent," he said.

A study Ways to Work commissioned, released Thursday, found its borrowers reported take-home pay increases averaging 41 percent, with their average annual income growing to \$15,312 from \$11,904. More than half the recipients said they were able to get better jobs because of their cars. Nearly four out of five parents with young children said they were able to put them into a more satisfactory daycare arrangement.

The program works like this: Local social service agencies that decide to offer it can get a support package from the national Ways to Work organization. Local agencies use money from the national program to make collateral payments to local banks, which make the loans. The money for the collateral comes from foundation grants, Bank of America loan capital and Federal transportation funds.

Family Services of Western Pennsylvania, a Pittsburgh-based social services agency, has expanded its Ways to Work program from loans for 18 cars in 2000 to loans for 86 cars in 2005. It is now the largest Ways to Work program in the country.

Family Services' most recent annual review of the program, completed in 2005, found that 85 percent of loan recipients were able to increase their salaries and 70 percent improved their credit rating.

"In the old steel industry, jobs were along the river in the cities," said Donald H. Goughler, CEO of the agency, which is based in Pittsburgh. "Now, most of the jobs are found in the suburbs. New jobs are more accessible because of this program."

People who worked with Family Service Agency of San Mateo County in California to get the car loans say the amount of work they miss after getting a car is down 92 percent. Their transit time to work is cut by 91 percent and more than one-quarter say they have been able to attend job-related education they couldn't have reached without a car.

The local agencies that make the loans carefully vet recipients, who have to write a personal statement about their situation. The underwriting process can take anywhere from two to five weeks.



Only low-wage earners with at least one dependent child are eligible. In 2005, roughly 13,000 people received a loan application through the program. About 5,500 completed the application, but only 2,500 were approved for a loan. Of that group, about 2,000 took the loan they were approved for.

"That's clearly creaming, and it's also self-selection, but it's really important both for the program and the people we actually serve that we give the loans to people who are most likely to succeed," Faulkner said. "We don't want to make their credit worse than it already is."

Agencies insist the borrower find a roadworthy, reliable car that will last for the life of the loan. Some agencies work with local mechanics or used car dealers to find cars in the borrowers' price range. Yturralde's case worker at Family Service Agency of San Mateo County rejected all the cars she found. Her loan was within days of expiring when a local dealer called and said he had a dependable car in her price range.

Loan recipients must construct a family budget, working with a counselor who tells them whether they're eligible for food stamps or child care reimbursement and encourages them to cut out expenses such as mobile phones and cable television.

David Turner, a 36-year-old single father in Pittsburgh, said the 1997 Dodge Intrepid he bought with a Ways to Work loan from the Western Pennsylvania agency has changed what was a two-hour, three-bus journey to drop his two daughters off at school and daycare before work into a half-hour trip.

Turner, who started a new job doing remodeling work about seven months ago, said, "It's the first reliable car I've had in a long time.... I don't have to worry about huge time in travel with the girls; I'm able to get to work on time and handle my responsibilities."

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## Ludington Daily News

Posted: 10-12-2006

### County's '07 budget up 6 percent

By KEVIN BRACISZESKI

Daily News Staff Writer

The Mason County Board of Commissioners approved a final budget for 2007 that is \$252,100 higher than the preliminary budget it approved earlier in the year.

The board approved the county's total general fund budget, balanced at \$9,865,000, Tuesday night, 6.4 percent higher than the amended budget for the current year. Among the largest accounts are:



- \$1,257,700 for the sheriff's office road patrols and detectives, up from the 2006 amended amount of \$1,208,650, a 4 percent increase.
- \$1,177,000 for jail operations, up from the 2006 amended amount of \$1,144,500, a 2.8 percent increase.

In a memo about the budget, Mason County Administrator Fabian Knizacky said health insurance premiums have increased by an average of 15.2 percent over last year and the county's retirement contributions increased by 7.4 percent in that time.

Knizacky also noted that the budget does not include money for a requested increase for road patrol overtime, for dues to the Michigan Association of Counties, or a request from the Mason County Emergency Management Coordinator that his position be continued as full-time.

The board had increased the emergency management coordinator position for a six-month period, and Knizacky said the board's personnel committee is recommending that it evaluate the position in January 2007 to determine if it should continue as full-time.

In other business Tuesday, the board approved a resolution supporting the concept of developing a regional single point of entry (SPE) service for information, referral and advocacy services.

The resolution also states that the Department of Community Health should work with SPE community partners to find local solutions, and it states any amount of the \$9.15 million earmarked for a western Michigan SPE that is not used for SPE operations be diverted to expanding service

provisions and capacity, including Medicaid waiver service to seniors, physical disability services funding for modifications to homes for people who choose to remain in their own homes, and funding to add staff to Department of Human Services to determine eligibility and provide home help services case management for people who choose to remain in their own homes.

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## Post a Comment

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Date published: 10-12-2006

**? 2002 Ludington Daily News.**

## **DeVos Presents Vision**

MIRS, October 12, 2006

(Detroit) Today GOP gubernatorial candidate Dick **DeVOS**, who was sporting reading glasses, delivered a 15-minute speech at the Detroit Economic Club luncheon, in which he displayed aggression and wit while painting a vision of how a DeVos administration would get off the ground.

The following is his speech in summary:

"I apologize that the governor has had so many job interviews," DeVos quipped. "I wish her luck with her next one." This was followed by laughs and a few groans.

"I believe the job Gov. Jennifer **GRANHOLM** has done is something you're not very happy with," DeVos said. "You like the Governor but just don't know if you want more of the same thing. But at the same time, you're not too certain about me. You're not certain where I'll lead Michigan."

DeVos then said there would be ten things he'd do immediately after taking the oath of office. They included:

- "I'd take charge of the MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) myself," DeVos said, adding that it was time for a governor to take direct responsibility for MEDC decisions.

"It would be my department," DeVos stressed.

- "I'd call the Legislature into special session where they'd stay until they find a replacement tax for the SBT," DeVos said. "It should be something simple and fair."

- In addition, DeVos said he said believes he could find \$1 billion in budget fat from the state's education bureaucracy. "Money that doesn't get to the classrooms," he said.

- He said he'd start converting the state into a "one-stop-shopping" place, where citizens could conduct business with government in an efficient manner.

- DeVos said he'd open 10 state trade missions, beginning with one with Japan.

- He said he'd work on improving Michigan's child protective services.

- He said he'd invest more money in Michigan's tourism industry. "We get \$3 back on every dollar invested in tourism," DeVos explained.

- DeVos said he'd have his Lt. Gov. Ruth **JOHNSON** head a review of every department in state government and eliminate any unnecessary programs and make necessary changes to other programs.

- He also said he'd meet with Detroit Mayor Kwame **KILPATRICK** and tell him Detroit's success is necessary to Michigan's success. He also said he'd put 500 more police on the streets of Detroit.

"There will be more changes in the first 45 days of my administration than under this Governor in 45 months," DeVos said. "And, if I make a mistake I'll take responsibility for it."

"I've been asked if I believe this Governor is responsible for [the Patrick **SELEPAK** release and children subject to child protective services who died.] I do. If elected I expect you to hold me accountable."

DeVos said if an incident such as the Selepak release took place under his administration, he'd immediately fire the head of the Department of Corrections (DOC). He said if an incident like the Ricky **HOLLAND** murder took place under his administration, he'd immediately fire the head of the Department of Human Services (DHS).

"They'd be gone," DeVos said. Then he went into the review of Granholm's history at Wayne County involving the juvenile detection center (See "[MRP: 'Granholm Has Failed Leadership Pattern'](#)," 10/10/06).

"We can't expect a governor to be perfect," DeVos said. "Sometimes good people who are nice are not right for the job."

DeVos also said that Michigan may no longer be in a single-state recession.

"It may now be becoming a single state depression," DeVos said, listing all the statistics that show the state is struggling economically. "I ask again, are you better off now than you were four years ago?"

"I want this job, not because I want to have the job, but because I want to do the job," DeVos said.

He said the Granholm administration was full of "would've, could've and should've" and making excuses like "the Legislature wouldn't do it," or "the president didn't return my call."

DeVos said that Granholm, in regard to getting results, had been (MIA) Missing In Action and blamed it on everyone else. He then made a parallel with the Detroit Tigers.

"The Tigers have made a great comeback this year," DeVos said. "They changed leadership and it changed their attitude."

# DeVos and Granholm speak at Detroit Economic Club

By **KATHLEEN GRAY**

Free Press Staff Writer

*October 12, 2006*

The day that he is sworn in as governor can't come soon enough, said Republican gubernatorial candidate Dick DeVos, because Gov. Jennifer Granholm has been "MIA and BSE."

In his most direct attack on Granholm, DeVos said today she's been either missing in action or blaming somebody else.

"I'll make more changes in my first 45 days than Gov. Granholm did in 45 months," he said. "Now is the time to fire the governor."

In a joint appearance before the Detroit Economic Club, Granholm, for the most part, stuck to her script of what she's done to help reshape Michigan's economy.

"You deserve a governor who will put all their cards on the table and protect the things that you value like public safety, education and health care," she said.

But DeVos said that Granholm exhibited a "disturbing pattern of mismanagement."

She should be held responsible for the mistaken or early release from prison of killers Patrick Selepak and Daniel Franklin and the deaths of Ricky Holland and several other foster children who were wards of the Department of Human Services.

"I've been asked if I believe the Governor is responsible for these tragic events and my answer is yes," said DeVos, adding the directors of the state Department of Corrections and Human Services should have been fired after those events.

After the event at Cobo Center in Detroit, Granholm said DeVos' words were coming from a desperate who was reacting to her consistent lead in the polls.

"Using human tragedies for political gain is a sign of desperation," she said. "People aren't listening to his message anymore."

The two will meet at 8 p.m. Monday for their final debate before the Nov. 7 election. The debate will air live on WXYZ-TV, Channel 7.

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## Too many agencies

Shrinking economy demands paring, merging of nonprofits

### GENESEE COUNTY

#### THE FLINT JOURNAL FIRST EDITION

Friday, October 13, 2006

As the Flint area's financial crunch continues to drive area charities to desperation, the entire nonprofit sector needs to do a better job of self-discipline if it expects to maximize benefits from declining resources. For a beginning, there are too many nonprofit organizations competing for a shrinking donor base. Consolidations must become common.

It is shocking to see that the Visually Impaired Center, with its long, proud history of teaching people to cope with diminished vision and blindness, threatened with having to close. But that is only symptomatic of the plight of most organizations that rely on the area's few grant-makers, along with the generosity of their special constituencies.

Peculiarly, it seems that the tighter things get, the greater the numbers of nonprofits that spring up. Some more recent upstart organizations are founded in recognition of a new need. As local incomes shrink, the demand on human services becomes more profound.

But that does not justify maintaining all of the area's estimated 700-plus nonprofit organizations. When someone is tempted to start a new one, a baseline consideration should always be to see if an existing organization might fill the need. Also, the old prohibition against duplicating services - so often honored in the breach - must be adopted seriously.

By now we all know the underlying cause of the misery - the contraction of General Motors operations here and its extended effects on a once powerhouse industrial economic base.

In those glory days, dense, unionized employment made donation drives easy for the United Way, along with many other organizations committed to worthwhile human service work. But that era is long past, and with Delphi phasing out thousands more jobs in Flint, the United Way is up for even greater trials.

It is not fair to expect the United Way and other funders to go through the grueling, thankless work of picking and choosing among organizations. Justice to the funders and the people who need service calls for agencies to find methods of disciplining themselves.

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## Food, clothing pantry looking for financial help

Friday, October 13, 2006

By Matt Vande Bunte

**The Grand Rapids Press**

ALGOMA TOWNSHIP -- A northern Kent County food and clothing provider will put its inventory up for sale Saturday so it can keep giving items away during the week.

A \$17,000 deficit through the first eight months of this year has North Kent Service Center exploring plans to cut operations to three eight-hour days per week.

The facility, 10075 Northland Drive NE, operates from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The nonprofit organization has sent a letter to 90 churches in its service area requesting weekly pledges. A public sale and evening fundraiser are scheduled Saturday.

"I can no longer act like an ostrich with the my head in the sand," said Sandy Waite, executive director. "It's down to a critical level.

"We need to get a new structure of how we're funded because we are held hostage by this economy."

Waite said 21 churches north of 6 Mile Road make financial contributions to the center, which last year served 8,027 families.

Service this year is on pace for almost 11,000 families, an increase of 36 percent.

The sagging economy has increased demand and stifled donations.

Income is off about 4 percent so far this year, while expenses are up 4 percent because of rising utility and trash costs, Waite said.

"I don't have the luxury of upping tuition, and I can't raise the price of my product because I don't sell my product," Waite said.

The deficit makes up about 5 percent of the \$343,000 operating budget at the center, which employs three full-time and 10 part-time staff members.

The center has a goal of saving three months of operating costs, but "now we've had to dip into it," said Julie Towner, board president.

"We've only got enough dollars to cover us for the next month," she said. "If giving does not turn around, we need to take drastic measures."

One cost-cutting option under review would reduce hours of operation 40 percent. Another plan would cut back to three 12-hour days, losing only four operating hours per week.

Waite already has taken a pay cut.

"The last thing we want to do is turn away a family that needs food to feed their children for the week," Towner said. "We can't wait (until December for a surge of donations). We need it now."



Waite said utilities, which cost \$20,840 last year, are on pace to surpass \$30,000 in 2006.

And trash costs are more than triple last year's amount due to an increase in unusable donations dropped off.

The center accepts round-the-clock donations, but may gate the facility to prevent after-hours dumping of items the center can't use and ends up discarding.

The Rockford-area pantry is not alone in its struggles.

The All County Churches Emergency Support System, or ACCESS, oversees a network of 100 Kent County food pantries that has seen demand surge from an average of about 10,000 people per month five years ago to 17,000 people in August.

"We're constantly serving more and more people," said Bruce Schlanderer, ACCESS executive director. "The income, I don't think, has kept up with that. Our income from congregations has held fairly steady."

Now, as North Kent Service Center has done, "agencies that have not gone to the congregations in Kent County for funding are now going there, he said.

But some of those churches have their own budget problems caused by rising costs and donors hampered by the same issues increasing demand at the pantries.

"It's really a domino effect," Schlanderer said.

ACCESS hopes its annual countywide food drive Saturday nets 110 tons of goods that can be dispersed to area pantries.

That should be a help to organizations like South End Community Outreach Ministries, which at times has offered under-stocked shelves to visitors, said Mariana Garza, director of the food pantry.

"We don't get as much funding from our usual funders," she said. "We do run into some crises. It's tight everywhere."

Finances are fine at Community Action House in Holland, said Mark Tucker, executive director. But food is low. And 2,000 turkeys still are needed to provide Thanksgiving meals.

Demand actually has decreased in the past year, perhaps because "there's a lot of people who have left the area," but people who come for food have greater need. In 2005, the nonprofit social service provider served 3,600 families with about 200,000 meals. In the 2006 fiscal year that ended this summer, about 3,000 families received 189,000 meals -- about 14 percent more food per family.

"What we're seeing is the ratio of food to family is up," Tucker said. "That's an indication that poverty is deepening a bit.

"It seems like the economy at the upper end is doing well. What's odd is this recovery hasn't created any jobs."

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JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

MARIANNE UDOW  
DIRECTOR

## News Release

**Contact: Maureen Sorbet (517) 373-7394**

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**Michigan Department of Human Services Summarily Suspends  
the Family Day Care Home Certificate of Registration License Number DF250252635 of  
Suzann Matthews**

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**October 13, 2006**

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The Michigan Department of Human Services (DHS), Office of Children and Adult Licensing issued an order of summary suspension and notice of intent to revoke the certificate of registration of Genesee County family day care home provider Suzann Matthews, 1167 Knickerbocker Avenue, Flint, Michigan. This action resulted from a recent investigation of a complaint of the child day care family home.

The October 12, 2006, complaint investigation found violations of the Child Care Organizations Act and administrative rules regarding supervision of children, water hazards and water activities and department notification of injury, accident, illness, death, or fire. OCAL took emergency action to protect the health, welfare, and safety of children.

Effective 6:00 p.m., October 13, 2006, the Summary Suspension Order prohibits Suzann Matthews from operating a family day care home at 1167 Knickerbocker Avenue, Flint, Michigan or at any other address or location. Accordingly, she may not accept children for care after that date and time. The order also requires Ms. Matthews to inform all of the parents of children in her care that her certificate of registration has been suspended and that she can no longer provide day care.

Ms. Matthews has held a certificate of registration to operate a family day care home since March 10, 2003. The certificate of registration was for six children.

Michigan law defines a day care family home "as a private home in which 1 but fewer than 7 minor children are received for care and supervision for periods of less than 24 hours a day, unattended by a parent or legal guardian, except children related to an adult member of the family by blood, marriage, or adoption."

For more information, consult DHS Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dhs](http://www.michigan.gov/dhs).